

Message Text

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20

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-11 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-05 /084 W

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R 282100Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9485

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, BL

SUBJECT: GENERAL MCAULIFFE'S VISIT WITH BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT
BANZER

1. ON JANUARY 27 GENERAL MCAULIFFE, ACCOMPANIED BY COLONEL SHAHA, THE MILGP COMMANDER, AND ME, CALLED ON PRESIDENT BANZER. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES PRESIDENT BANZER INDICATED THAT WHILE MILITARY RELATIONS BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY MISSION ARE EXCELLENT AND THE QUALITY OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL IS HIGH, HE CONTINUES TO BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SLOWNESS IN COMPLETING THE EQUIPPING OF THE FIVE MOBILE REGIMENTS (TIPOS). THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS MADE BY US AUTHORITIES IN LA PAZ TO TRY TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, BUT EXPRESSED FEAR THAT THE PARTIAL RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE WILL BE DILUTED SINCE THE MATERIEL ALREADY PROVIDED MAY BECOME OBSOLETE WHEN THE SUBSEQUENT EQUIPMENT ARRIVES. HE MENTIONED DELAYS IN BOTH FINANCING AND DELIVERIES. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ADEQUATE FUNDS COULD BE ACHIEVED QUICKLY AND THAT A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR DELIVERIES TO BOLIVIA COULD BE ARRANGED.

2. GENERAL MCAULIFFE SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE PRESIDENT BANZER'S
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VIEWS KNOWN TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. HE EXPLAINED COMPETING

PRIORITIES, CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, AND PRODUCTION PROBLEMS. HE OFFERED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP FULFILL THE COMMITMENT TO EQUIP THE FIVE TIPOS BY REVIEWING PRIORITIES WITH THE JCS.

3. PRESIDENT BANZER SAID THAT THE QUALITY OF US MILITARY ADVISERS IS HIGHER NOW THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST. HE SAID THAT IN PREVIOUS YEARS THE US OFTEN SENT OFFICERS TO DUTY HERE JUST BEFORE THEIR RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE SERVICE. HE SAID HE HAS NOTED A REMARKABLE CHANGE IN THIS PRACTICE AND THAT THE MEN ASSIGNED ARE INTERESTED, ACTIVE, COOPERATIVE, AND HELPFUL. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OUR POLICY NOT SLIP BACK INTO PRACTICES OF PREVIOUS YEARS.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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